

I N D I A

SECTION A

Capital

New Delhi 301,000 (1991 est.)

Area

3,165,596 sq km (1,222,243 sq mi)

Form of government

Federal Republic

GDP—per capita

Purchasing power parity—\$1,800 (1999 est.)

Population

1,014,003,817 (July 2000 est.)

Ethnic composition

Indo-Aryan 72%

Dravidian 25%

Mongol, other 3%

Official language

English enjoys an associate status as one of 18 official languages and it is the most important language for national, political, and commercial communication. Of the 18 languages officially recognized in the Indian Constitution, 13 are Indo-European (Hindi - the national language and primary tongue of 30% of the people, Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri, Konkani, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Sindhi and Urdu). Another four are Dravidian languages (Kannada, Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu). The remaining language, Manpuri, is of Sino-Tibetan origin.

Other languages

There are at least twenty-four living languages, each spoken by a million or more persons; as well as numerous other languages and dialects (for the most part mutually unintelligible). The Indian Constitution uses the term “mother tongue” instead of language or dialect.

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

The Constitution of India, adopted on November 26, 1949, updated to 1996 (Articles 29, 30, 120, 210, 343-351)

Up until the Constitution Act of 1967 (21st Amendment), there were only 14 official languages in India. That Act included the Sindhi language to the Eighth Schedule (languages approved as official). The Constitution Act 1992 (71st Amendment) brought Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali into the Eighth Schedule. Thus, from 1992 onwards, there have been 18 constitutionally identified, defined and accepted languages in India.

The Official Languages Act, 1963

Background notes

India, the second most populous country, consists of twenty-five states; each with a substantial degree of control over its own affairs and seven less fully empowered “Union Territories”.

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

About 80% of all Indians (750 million in 1995) speak one of the languages from the Indo-Aryan family. A majority of the languages were derived from Sanskrit, the language of the ancient Aryans.

The most widely spoken language in the country is Hindi with more than 400 million speakers (1995). Hindi has a large number of dialects (at least 13, some of them completely different from each other). Hindi has been adopted as the official language in eight states.

Hindi is very closely related to Urdu, from which it differs principally only in script and vocabulary. Although Hindi replaced English within a single administration and became a medium of common communication, both languages are lingua franca in India. The official version of Hindi is based on the dialect that was spoken in the Delhi-Agra region using a Sanskrit vocabulary.

ENGLISH

English, a vestige of British colonial rule, is spoken fluently by less than 5% of the population. It is used as a linking language between the central government and the states, especially those in which Hindi is not widely understood. The government intended to switch the administration to Hindi till 1965. Even the official Language Act of 1963 stated that Hindi would become the sole official language starting in 1965. English, however, would continue as an “associate additional official language”. Only when a wave of massive riots erupted in reaction to this plan in 1964, were non-Hindu-speaking states assured that Hindi would not be imposed as the sole language of communication between the central government and the states as long as even one state objected. In addition, any of the Scheduled Languages could be used in taking examinations for entry into the central government services.

On the other hand, some Dravidian-speakers from the southern part of the country feel that speakers of Hindi have an advantage in getting well-paid jobs in the military, national bureaucracy and other services. Native speakers of Hindi, who are concentrated in the northern part of India, contend that English, spoken by only a small fraction of the population, is hopelessly elitist and unsuitable as the nation’s official language. Proponents of English argue that the use of Hindi is unfair because it is a liability for those Indians who do not speak it as their native tongue. English, they say, at least represents an equal handicap for Indians of every region. An increasing percentage of Indians send their children to private English language schools, to give them a chance to work in high-privilege positions of business, education and government.

DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

Around 18% of the Indian population (169 million in 1995), residing mostly in the southern part of the country where Indo-Aryan influence was less extensive than in the north, speaks Dravidian languages. The oldest of the Dravidian languages is Tamil.

SECTION B

Where does one observe language to be a problem in the country?

According to an anthropological survey of India in the 1980’s and early 1990’s, 75 “major languages” out of a total of 325 languages were used in Indian households. The Indian Constitution recognizes 18 official languages (Scheduled Languages) and English still continues to serve as the language of prestige.

Since achieving independence in 1947, the language question has become an increasingly sensitive one among Indians. Many Indian nationalists originally intended that Hindi would replace English as a medium of common communication. After different struggles – political, violent and passive – central government decided to allow the state governments to choose their own languages and then recognized them all officially.

States have been accused of failing to fulfill their obligations under the national Constitution to provide for the education of linguistic minorities in their mother tongues, in some cases the minority language was even a Scheduled Language. Although the Constitution requires that legal documents and petitions may be submitted in any of the Scheduled Languages to any government authority, this right is rarely exercised. Under such circumstances, members of linguistic minorities may feel the majority oppresses them and their language. While people who are among linguistic majorities may feel threatened by what some might consider minor concessions. For example, in 1994 a proposal in Bangalore to introduce an Urdu-language television news segment (aimed primarily at Muslim viewers) led to a week of urban riots that left dozens dead and millions of dollars in property damage.

To what extent are minority groups in this country disadvantaged by their language?

This question could be modified for India to “pro’s and con’s of the languages spoken in India and their impact on the people living in the country”.

Many questions arise while thinking about a specific language in India. What language should be used for inter-State communications? What language or languages will be used by the Central Government for official purposes? What language would be the most appropriate as the medium of instruction in schools? How many languages should a student learn in school and at what stage?.....

EDUCATION

It has now been accepted that the medium of instruction in schools should be the regional language. Thus, the language of instruction shall be Malayalam in Kerala, Telugu in Andhra Pradesh, Hindi in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, Oriya in Orissa and so on.

Some of the problems connected with moving from one state to another (inter-state mobility is even higher at the university level), are solved by English-medium schools these days. If universities in each State adopted

the regional language as their medium of instruction, it would severely restrict the inter-state mobility of both students and teachers.

At present, the three-language formula is the accepted format in schools. The student learns the local language, English and Hindi (if he or she is from outside the Hindi belt). All three languages that the student has to learn are therefore pre-determined. The student is then learning three languages, but if he has an inclination to learn a specific language he has to study a fourth language. This example illustrates the burden of language study in the schools of present-day India.

ADMINISTRATION

The problem of communication between State Governments still remains. At present, the Government of each State is in the process of adopting the regional language as the medium for administrative purposes. Then the need for a suitable language for inter-State communication arises. Moreover, the Central Government shall have to adopt a particular language for its own official work.

There is still the problem of communication between the States and the central government and in turn the people all over the country. What language, for instance, shall the Central Government use for communication with a person living in Orissa? What language should the Tamil Nadu Government use for communication with a business firm established in Calcutta? At present, English is used as the medium for inter-governmental and inter-regional communication solving most of these problems. Eventually English will be replaced as the pre-eminent language, most likely by Hindi but Sanskrit is also competing for this status on a national level.

ENGLISH	PRO'S	CON'S
	Already plays an important role in the society	English is a foreign language carrying the onus of colonialism
	It is neutral for use between different regions in the country	
	It is a highly developed language with a rich vocabulary	
	The results of the academic research done in India have been historically published in English	

HINDI		
	It is the most popular Indian language	The scientific and general literature is quite inferior in comparison with English
		It is not neutral for use between regions
		Potential disadvantages for non-Hindi speakers
SANSKRIT		
	It is an Indian language	It is not a popular language
	It has a very rich literature	It is considered to be difficult
	It is neutral for use between regions	
	Was used as a linking language among scholars prior to English	

What does it cost in terms of money, time and government resources to police the country's language restrictions?

Each state in India has a different official language, some of them not recognized by the central government. Some states have more than one official language. Bihar in east India has three official languages, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali, which are all recognized by the central government. However, Sikkim, in east India as well, has four official languages but only Nepali is recognized by the central government. Aside from the languages officially recognized by central or state governments, there are others, which do not have this recognition but their speakers are waging political campaigns to achieve official status.

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

States are free to adopt their own language of administration and educational instruction from the country's officially recognized languages (Scheduled Languages). Furthermore, all citizens have the right to primary education in their native tongue, although the Constitution does not stipulate how this objective is to be accomplished. One of the definitions of Constitutional recognition is the right to use any of these languages for the government service examination process.

ENGLISH

EDUCATION

English is the principal language of commerce and the language of instruction in almost all the country's prestigious universities and private schools. These institutions were first established in 1813 when the English Christian missionaries came to India. According to British laws the language of instructions at the university level was English, therefore schools emphasizing English were preferred by ambitious Indians. Even after India's independence, English remained the main language in India.

In the 1970s and 1980s about one third of Indian schools had English as their first language. For most of these students, English was their first language and it was easier for them to communicate, read and write in English than in Indian languages, including their mother tongues.

The English-language press remains highly influential. Scholarly publication is predominantly in English and almost exclusively so in science. Many Indians are devotees of literature in English (much of it written by Indian authors) as well as of English-language film, radio, television, popular music, and theatre. Until the beginning of the 1990s, foreign movies were not translated or dubbed to Indian languages but were broadcasted in English.

English also serves as the language of communication among Indians who speak different languages. Yet only around 3% of the population (28 million in 1995) is fluent in both English and Indian language.

SECTION C

Other Languages

Updated (April 2003)

MINORITY LANGUAGES OF INDIA

The Constitution of India recognizes eighteen official languages called also the "scheduled languages." Languages not included in those eighteen are listed as "minority languages." The Constitution does not provide a clear criterion for defining minority languages.

In 1958, the Supreme Court of India presented a parameter for defining a minority language as "the language of the minority community" (which is

defined as a community with less than 50 percent of the total population in a particular area). However, this parameter is not applicable at the national level because there is no linguistic group in India, which could claim the majority status.

Hindi, the official language of the Union, is the language of only one-third of the total Indian population. A minority language at the state level could be defined as “the language of the population which creates less than 50 percent of the total population of the state and which is different from the language of the majority community and the language of the state.” However, in India, Kashmiri, which is spoken by 53 percent of the total population in the state of Jammu and Kashmir, is not the state language. This status belongs to Urdu, spoken by less than one percent of the total population of the state. Similarly, English, the official language of Meghalaya, is spoken by only 0.01 percent of the total population. Thus the parameter of defining minority languages on the basis of their numerical strength is not appropriate in India.

Srivastava (1984) provided a new approach towards defining the minority/majority languages based on two principles: quantum and power.

		Power	
		+	-
Quantum	+	a) Majority	b) Janta
	-	c) Elite	d) Minority

According to this view, a language can be: (a) both powerful and numerous (e.g. Marathi in Maharashtra State); (b) powerless but numerous (e.g. Kashmiri in Jammu and Kashmir); (c) minor but powerful (English in all states); (d) both minor and powerless (tribal languages in all states).

THE CRITERION OF DOMINANCE

In a multilingual country such as India, different languages are dominant in different domains. For example, Sanskrit is dominant in religion but subordinate in economics, politics and business. The regional languages are dominant at home, but they are subordinate in higher education and business at the national level. English is dominant in higher education, business and politics but not in religion. The

criterion of dominance will indicate the same language as dominant and non-dominant in different domains.

Source: *Minority Matters: Issues in Minority Languages in India* by Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande, University of Illinois, Department of Linguistics, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA, *MOST Journal on Multicultural Societies*, Vol. 4, No. 2, ISSN 1564-4901, © UNESCO, 2002, <http://www.unesco.org/most/v14n2pandhari.pdf>

Legislation dealing with the use of languages

Updated (April 2003)

THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

The Indian Constitution adopted several safeguards to protect linguistic minorities in the country. Articles 350(A) and 350(B) were adopted in addition to the earlier Articles 29(1), 30, 347 and 350 in order to preserve the interests of minorities. Article 29(1) clearly guarantees the right of minorities to conserve their cultural as well as linguistic traditions. The first clause of Article 30 guarantees all minorities based on religion or language the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their own in order to preserve their linguistic and/or cultural heritage. The second clause of Article 30 prohibits the state from discriminating against minority educational institutions. Thus minorities are allowed to secure state funds for their educational institutions. Article 347 allows the use of minority languages for official purposes. Accordingly, a state should be recognized as unilingual only if one language group constitutes 70 percent or more of the total population. Moreover, where there is a minority of over 30 percent of the total population, the state should be recognized as bilingual for administrative purposes. A similar principle applies at the district level.

Source: *Minority Matters: Issues in Minority Languages in India* by Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande, University of Illinois, Department of Linguistics, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA, *MOST Journal on Multicultural Societies*, Vol. 4, No. 2, ISSN 1564-4901, © UNESCO, 2002, <http://www.unesco.org/most/v14n2pandhari.pdf>

Background Notes

Updated (August 2001)

India has been home to several great empires which brought many centuries of peace to the land. Nonetheless, the Indian sub-continent has endured many conquests throughout its history. Certainly the one with the longest-lasting effect was the Aryan invasion, which brought Vedic

speech with it. Sanskrit, Sauraseni Prakrit, and then Sauraseni Apabhramsa served as languages of interregional communication from early times until the Muslim invasions in north India in the 13th Century. At this time, Persian became the court language while Sauraseni Apabhramsa continued to be used as an official language. Beginning with the Moghul emperor Akbar's reign, Persian was used as the official language and over time gained such prestige that it enjoyed continued use as the official language in north India even after the end of Muslim rule. However, during the 17th and 18th centuries, Hindi and Urdu also developed into languages of interregional communication.

The last foreign language to hold sway in India is English, which to this day continues to play a prominent role in Indian life. English replaced Persian as the official language in 1837, though Persian and, to a lesser extent, Hindi were retained in some capacity at the lower levels of administration. English also became the language of the intellectual elite, a situation which has been replicated in many parts of the post-colonial world. Today, English is spoken by approximately 3 to 4% of the Indian population. Although this is a minority, it is perhaps the most elite and influential minority in India today.

The use of language in everyday life e.g. education, broadcasting and other

Updated (August 2001)

In the year 2000 more than 400 million Indians speak Hindi. Hindi is regarded as India's official language, though not *the* official national language. Instead, according to the Constitution, which is in English, India has 18 national languages.

After a decade-long "Indianization" to teach regional languages in the schools and remove British-era names of streets and places (Bombay is now Mumbai, Calcutta is Kolkata) a middle-class consensus to spread the learning of English is emerging. For 50 years, English has been a language of privilege, but today it must become a more common vernacular, say intellectuals, business executives and parents alike.

According to many, English will help India to become global cyberpower. In a Republic Day speech Indian President K.R. Narayanan said: "We have one of the largest reservoirs of technical personnel, but also the world's largest numbers of illiterates." Acknowledging these realities, in December the government of Maharashtra, whose capital is Bombay, announced compulsory English lessons for all students from grade 6 onward. The move, like a similar one in West Bengal two years ago, reverses a policy of the early 1990s to teach only the local Marathi and

Bengali languages in schools. Parents in Bombay were a major part of the lobbying effort to change the system.

Even in marriage, the most powerful Indian institution, English plays a new role. In matrimonial ads in India, even in Hindi-language newspapers, more ask for brides who attended “convent schools.” This does not signal religious sentiment. It implies the young lady will be English speaking, more employable, and able to travel into the dual and upwardly mobile English-Hindi worlds.

Although some promoters of English warn that a headlong attempt to teach the subject could be harmful, for the poor English is known as the language of opportunity.

Updated (April 2003)

THE THREE-LANGUAGE FORMULA

Thirteen percent of the Indian population is bilingual and over 42 percent of the minority population is bilingual (Singh 2001). Singh and Manoharan (1993) worked with 623 tribal communities, and only 123 of them were monolingual while 500 were bilingual. According to them, the second or third language may be either a minor language, a scheduled language or even a regional language depending on the area in which people reside. Apart from the official language of the state, regional languages like Chattisgarhi, Halbi, and Tulu are also spoken for intergroup communication by tribal communities. Each state in India is multilingual but the rate of minority languages’ speakers varies from 10 percent (Gujarat) to 44 percent (Panjab) (Bhatt and Mahboob 2002).

The three-language formula has further contributed to the high rate of bilingualism among minority linguistic communities. Traditionally, tribal communities lived isolated from the cities and villages. The languages of those communities have been maintained due to their isolation from the mainstream population, which did not interact with them. Since India’s independence (1947), it has become necessary for tribal communities to interact with the mainstream population due to the changes caused by modernization (mechanization, deforestation and urbanization of villages). The policy of state governments has promoted education through the three-language formula, which has accelerated the speed of learning the dominant regional language in these communities.

As a result, the functional domain of tribal languages is restricted to home and intra-group communication. Several studies¹ show that due to

¹ Biligiri (1969), Karunakaran (1983), Khubchandani (1983), Roy Burman (1969), Raju (1977), Abbi (1995)

the lack of script, a paucity of teaching materials and a small number of speakers, many tribal languages are facing attrition.

The functional load of English and the regional languages is extremely high compared with that of minority languages; therefore it is not surprising that speakers of the minority languages perceive their languages as “powerless.” Several studies show that they do not think it is useful or important to learn their first language. Out of the total 7.8 percent of tribal population in India, only 4 percent speaks tribal languages (Singh 2001).

Razz and Ahmed (1990) claimed that half of India’s tribal population has already lost their languages, and that people have assimilated into a dominant linguistic group, adopting a dominant language as their mother tongue.

This trend indicates that members of tribes living in the cities seldom consider it their privilege to speak their mother tongue. On the contrary, ignorance of the tribal languages is regarded as an enhancement of status and prestige. If speaking Hindi they feel superior in comparison to the other tribe fellows.

Functional load is one of the parameters for defining minority languages. It is assumed that the degree of functional load can be measured by the number of functional domains of the language. However, the number of domains is not the only factor for measuring the degree of functional load. Another important parameter is “functional transparency.”

Functional transparency can be explained as follows: if a language “A” is the only language used to perform a particular function in a particular domain, then the language “A” can be said to have functional transparency vis-à-vis that function. In contrast, if the same function is performed by more than one language, the languages involved are said to be not transparent (but opaque) to that function. A language with higher functional transparency has a higher functional load. For example, the only language used for science and technology in India is English. Therefore, English can be considered to be transparent to this function. Similarly, the regional languages (in their native states) are almost exclusively used at home and the pidgin Hindi (Bazaar Hindi) in Mumbai is almost exclusively used as the “market language.”

IMMIGRANTS

In contrast, immigrants in their non-native context generally use two languages. While earlier they use their native language exclusively, later they begin to use the dominant language (of the country/place of immigration) along with their native language in various domains (home,

social gatherings, etc.). In this case, their native language does not remain transparent to the function. Though the number of domains in which their native language is used is higher than that of Bazaar Hindi, its functional load is lower. This situation is fairly common as for the minority languages of India. Many minority languages once spoken exclusively at home gradually begin to be accompanied by the dominant language, usually as children start their schooling in that language. This use of two languages (minority and dominant) reduces the functional transparency of minority languages.

The hierarchy of functional load can be presented as follows:

HIGH FUNCTIONAL LOAD

- 1) + Functional transparency + number of domains
- 2) + Functional transparency - number of domains
- 3) - Functional transparency + number of domains
- 4) - Functional transparency - number of domains

LOW FUNCTIONAL LOAD

The above diagram shows relatively high/low degrees of functional load. Languages such as English and the regional languages in India fall into the category (1) as they all carry a high degree of transparency as well as a high number of domains. Sanskrit and Bazaar Hindi belong to the category (2), where the functional transparency is high but the number of domains is low. The categories (3) and (4) show the phases of attrition of minority languages. In the first phase (3), minority languages are used along with the dominant language (thus losing functional transparency); and in the second phase (4), the dominant language displaces minority languages, leading into their disappearance.

To summarize, a language with a higher functional load has a better chance to survive than a language with a lower functional load. For example, the regional languages, with their higher functional load, are more likely to be maintained in India than the tribal languages with a very low functional load.

Source: Minority Matters: Issues in Minority Languages in India by Rajeshwari V. Pandharipande, University of Illinois, Department of Linguistics, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois, USA, MOST Journal on Multicultural Societies, Vol. 4, No. 2, ISSN 1564-4901, © UNESCO, 2002, <http://www.unesco.org/most/v14n2pandhari.pdf>

APPENDIX A

MAP OF INDIA



APPENDIX B

INDIA - CONSTITUTION

as adopted on November 26, 1949, updated to 1996

Article 29

1. Any section of the citizens of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same.

2. No citizen shall be denied admission into any educational institution maintained by the state or receiving aid out of state funds on grounds only of religion, race, caste, language, or any of them.

Article 30

1. All minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

1A. In making any law providing for the compulsory acquisition of any property of an educational institution established and administered by a minority, referred to in clause 1, the state shall ensure that the amount fixed by or determined under such law for acquisition of such property is such as would restrict or abrogate the right guaranteed under that clause.

2. The state shall not, in granting aid to educational institutions, discriminate against any educational institution on the ground that it is under the management of a minority, whether based on religion or language.

Article 120

1. Notwithstanding anything in Part XVII, but subject to the provisions of Article 348, business in Parliament shall be transacted in Hindi or in English: Provided that the Chairman of the Council of States or Speaker of the House of the People, or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or in English to address the House in his mother tongue.

2. Unless Parliament by law otherwise provides, this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this

Constitution, have effect as if the words "or in English" were omitted therefrom.

Article 210

1. Notwithstanding anything in Part XVII, but subject to the provisions of Article 348, business in the Legislature of a state shall be transacted in the official language or languages of the state or in Hindi or in English: Provided that the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or Chairman of the Legislative Council, or person acting as such, as the case may be, may permit any member who cannot adequately express himself in any of the languages aforesaid to address the House in his mother tongue.

2. Unless the Legislature of the state by law otherwise provides, this article shall, after the expiration of a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, have effect as if the words "or in English" were omitted therefrom: Provided that in relation to the Legislature of the states of Himachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya and Tripura this clause shall have effect as if the words "fifteen years" occurring therein, the words "twenty-five years" were substituted.

Article 343

1. The official language of the Union shall be Hindi in Devanagari script. The form of numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union shall be the international form of Indian numerals.

2. Notwithstanding anything in clause 1, for a period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution, the English language shall continue to be used for all the official purposes of the Union for which it was being used immediately before such commencement: Provided that the President may, during the said period, by order authorise the use of the Hindi language in addition to the English language and of the Devanagari form of numerals in addition to the international form of Indian numerals for any of the official purposes of the Union...

8. Notwithstanding anything in this article, Parliament may by law provide for the use, after the said period of fifteen years of:

(a) the English language, or

(b) the Devanagari form of numerals, for such purposes as may be specified in the law.

Article 344

1. The President shall, at the expiration of five years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement, by order constitute a Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule as the President may appoint, and the order shall define the procedure to be followed by the Commission.

2. It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President as to:

(a) the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union;

(b) restrictions on the use of the English language for all or any of the official purposes of the Union;

(c) the language to be used for all or any of the purposes mentioned in Article 348;

(d) the form of numerals to be used for any one or more specified purposes of the Union;

(e) any other matter referred to the Commission by the President as regards the official language of the Union and the language for communication between the Union and a state or between one state and another and their use.

3. In making their recommendations under clause 2, the Commission shall have due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advancement of India, and the just claims and the interest of persons belonging to the non-Hindi speaking areas in regard to the public services.

Article 345

Subject to the provision of Articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a state may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the state or Hindi as the language or languages to be used for all or any of the official purposes of that state: Provided that, until the Legislature of the state otherwise provides by law, the English language shall continue to be used for those official purposes within the state for which it was being used immediately before the commencement of this Constitution.

Article 346

The language for the time being authorized for use in the Union for official purposes shall be the official language for communication between one state and another state and between a state and the Union: Provided that if two or more states agree that the Hindi language should be the official language for communications between states, that language may be used for such communication.

Article 347

On a demand being made in that behalf the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a state desire the use of any language spoken by them to be recognized by that state, direct that such language shall also be officially recognized throughout that state or any part thereof for such purpose as he may specify.

Article 348

1. Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this Part, until Parliament by law otherwise provides:

(a) all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court,

(b) the authoritative texts:

(i) of all bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in either House of Parliament or in the House or either House of the Legislature of a state,

(ii) of all Acts passed by Parliament or the Legislature of a state and of all ordinances promulgated by the President or the Governor of a state, and

(iii) of all orders, rules, regulations and bylaws issued under this Constitution or under any law made by Parliament or the Legislature of a state,

shall be in the English language.

2. Notwithstanding anything in sub clause (a) of clause 1, the Governor of a state may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purposes of the state, in proceedings in the High Court having its principal seat in that state: Provided that nothing in this clause shall apply to any judgment, decree or order passed or made by such High Court.

3. Notwithstanding anything in sub clause (b) of clause 1, where the Legislature of a state has prescribed any language other than the English language for use in bills introduced in, acts passed by the Legislature of the state, or in any order, rule, regulation or bylaw referred to in paragraph (iii) of that sub clause, a translation of the same in the English language published under the authority of the Governor of the state in the official Gazette of that state shall be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in the English language under this article.

Article 349

During the period of fifteen years from the commencement of this Constitution no bill or amendment making provision for the language to be used for any of the purposes mentioned in clause 1 of Article 348 shall be introduced or moved in either House of Parliament without the previous sanction of the President, and the President shall not give his sanction to the introduction of any such bill or the moving of any such amendment except after he has taken into consideration the recommendations of the Commission constituted under clause 1 of Article 344 and the report of the Committee constituted under clause 4 of that article.

Article 350

Every person shall be entitled to submit a representation for the redress of any grievance to any officer or authority of the Union or a state in any of the languages used in the Union or in the state, as the case may be.

Article 350A

It shall be the endeavor of every state and of every local authority within the state to provide adequate facilities for instruction in the mother tongue at the primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups, and the President may issue such directions to any state as he considers necessary or proper for securing the provision of such facilities.

Article 350B

1. There shall be a special officer for linguistic minorities to be appointed by the President.
2. It shall be the duty of the special officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under this Constitution and report to the President upon those matters at such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all

such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to the governments of the states concerned.

Article 351

It shall be the duty of the Union to promote the spread of the Hindi language, to develop it so that it may serve as a medium of expression for all the elements of the composite culture of India and to secure its enrichment by assimilating, without interfering with its genius, the forms, style and expression used in Hindustani and in the other languages of India specified in the Eighth Schedule, and by drawing, wherever necessary or desirable, for its vocabulary, primarily on Sanskrit and secondarily on other languages.

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

(May 10, 1963)

An Act to provide for the languages which may be used for the official purpose of the Union, for transaction of business in Parliament, for Central and State Acts and for certain purpose in High Courts.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fourteenth Year of the Republic of India as follows:

1. (Short title and commencement)

(1) This Act may be called the Official Languages Act, 1963.

(2) Section 3 shall come into force on the 26th day of January, 1965 day of January, and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act.

2. (Definitions - In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires)

(a) "appoint day", in relation to section 3, means the 26th day of January, 1995 and in relation to any other provision of this Act, means the day on which that provision comes into force;

(b) "Hindi" means Hindi in Devanagari script.

3.

Continuance of English language for official purposes of the Union and for use in Parliament. Notwithstanding the expiration of the period of

fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution, the English language may, as from the appointed day, continue to be used, in addition to Hindi,--

(a) for all the official purpose of the Union for which it was being used immediately before that day; and

(b) for the transaction of business in Parliament.

4. (Committee on official Language)

(1) After the expiration of ten years from the date on which section 3 comes into force, there shall be constituted a Committee on Official Language, on a resolution to that effect being moved in either House of Parliament with the previous sanction of the President and passed by both Houses.

(2) The Committee shall consist of thirty members, of whom twenty shall be members of the House of the People and ten shall be members of the council of States, to be elected respectively by the members of the House of the People and the members of the Council of States in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Committee to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations thereon and the President shall cause the report to be laid before each House of Parliament, and sent to all the State Governments.

(4) The President may, after consideration of the report referred to in sub-section (3), and the views, if any, expressed by the State Governments thereon, issue directions in accordance with the whole or any part of that report.

5. (Authorized Hindi translation of Central Acts, etc.)

(1) A translation in Hindi published under the authority of the President in the Official Gazette on and after the appointed day

(a) of any Central Act or of any Ordinance promulgated by the President, or

(b) of any order, rule, regulation or bye-law issued under the Constitution or under any Central Act shall be deemed to be the authoritative text thereof in Hindi.

(2) As from the appointed day, the authoritative text in the English language of all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in either House of Parliament shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in Hindi authorized in such manner as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act.

6.

Authorized Hindi translation of State Acts in certain cases - where the Legislature of a State has prescribed any language other than Hindi for use in Acts passed by the Legislature of the State or in Ordinances promulgated by the Governor of the State, a translation of the same in Hindi, in addition to a translation thereof in the English language as required by clause (3) of article 348 of the Constitution, may be published on or after the appointed day under the authority of the Governor of the State in Official Gazette of that State and in such a case, the translation in Hindi of any such Act or Ordinance shall be deemed to be the authoritative text therefore in the Hindi language.

7.

Optional use of Hindi or other official language in judgments, etc., of High Courts. As from the appointed day or any day thereafter, the Governor of a State may, with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of Hindi or the official language of the State, in addition to the English language, for the purpose of any judgment, decree or order passed or made by the High court for that State and where any judgment, decree or order is passed or made in any such language (other than the English language), it shall be accompanied by a translation of the same in the English language issued under the authority of the High Court.

8. (Power to make rules)

(1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Every rule made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament while it is in session for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two successive sessions, and if before the expiry of the session in which it is so laid or the session immediately following, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be, so however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

9.

Certain provisions not to apply to Jammu and Kashmir - The provision of section 6 and section 7 shall not apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

APPENDIX C

INDIAN LANGUAGE ALPHABET COMPARISON

CONSONANTS

Gutturals

Gutturals	Hindi	Punjabi	Bengali	Gujarati
K	क	ਕ	ক	ક
Kh	ख	ਖ	খ	ખ
G	ग	ਗ	গ	ગ
Gh	घ	ਘ	ঘ	ઘ
N'	ङ	ਙ	ঙ(ng)	ઙ

Palatals

Palatals	Hindi	Punjabi	Bengali	Gujarati
<u>Ch</u>	च	ਚ	চ	ચ
<u>Chh</u>	छ	ਛ	ছ	છ
J	ज	ਜ	জ	જ
Jh	झ/झ	ਝ	ঝ	ઝ
N'	ञ	ਞ	ঞ	ઞ

Hindi is spoken as a mother tongue by about 40.22% of the population, mainly in the area known as the Hindi belt comprising Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. It is the official language of the Indian Union, of the four states mentioned above, and of two other states namely, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

Assamese is the state language of Assam and is spoken by nearly 60% of the State's population. The origin of this language dates back to the 13th century.

Bengali is spoken by nearly 200 million people in the world, in West Bengal and in Bangladesh. It developed as a language in the 13th century and is the official state language of the eastern state of West Bengal.

Gujarati is the state language of Gujarat and is spoken by 70% of the State's population. It is Indic in origin and branched out from the Indo-European group of languages.

Kannada is the State language of Karnataka and is spoken by 65% of the State's population.

Kashmiri is a language written in both Persio-Arabic and Devnagri script and is spoken by 55% of the population of Jammu and Kashmir.

Konkani, principally based on classical Sanskrit, belongs to the southwestern branch of Indo-Aryan languages. It is spoken in the Konkan region covering Goa and parts of the coastal regions of Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra.

Malayalam is a Dravidian language, spoken by the people of Kerala. It is an ancient language and is thousands years old.

Marathi is an Indic language dating back to the 13th century. It is the official language of the western state of Maharashtra.

Oriya, the state language of Orissa is spoken by nearly 87% of its population.

Punjabi is an Indic language and is spoken in the state of Punjab. Although based on the Devnagri script, it is written in the 16th century script called Gurumukhi, created by the Sikh Guru, Angad.

Sanskrit is one of the oldest languages of the world and also the language of classical India. All the classical literature and the Indian epics are written in this language.

Sindhi is spoken by a great number of people in the Northwest frontier of the Indian sub-continent comprising parts of India and Pakistan. In Pakistan, the language is written in the Perso-Arabic script, while in India in the Devnagri script.

Tamil, an ancient Dravidian language is at least 2,000 years old. It is the state language of Tamil Nadu and is spoken by at least 65 million people.

Telugu is also a Dravidian language and is the spoken by the people of Andhra Pradesh.

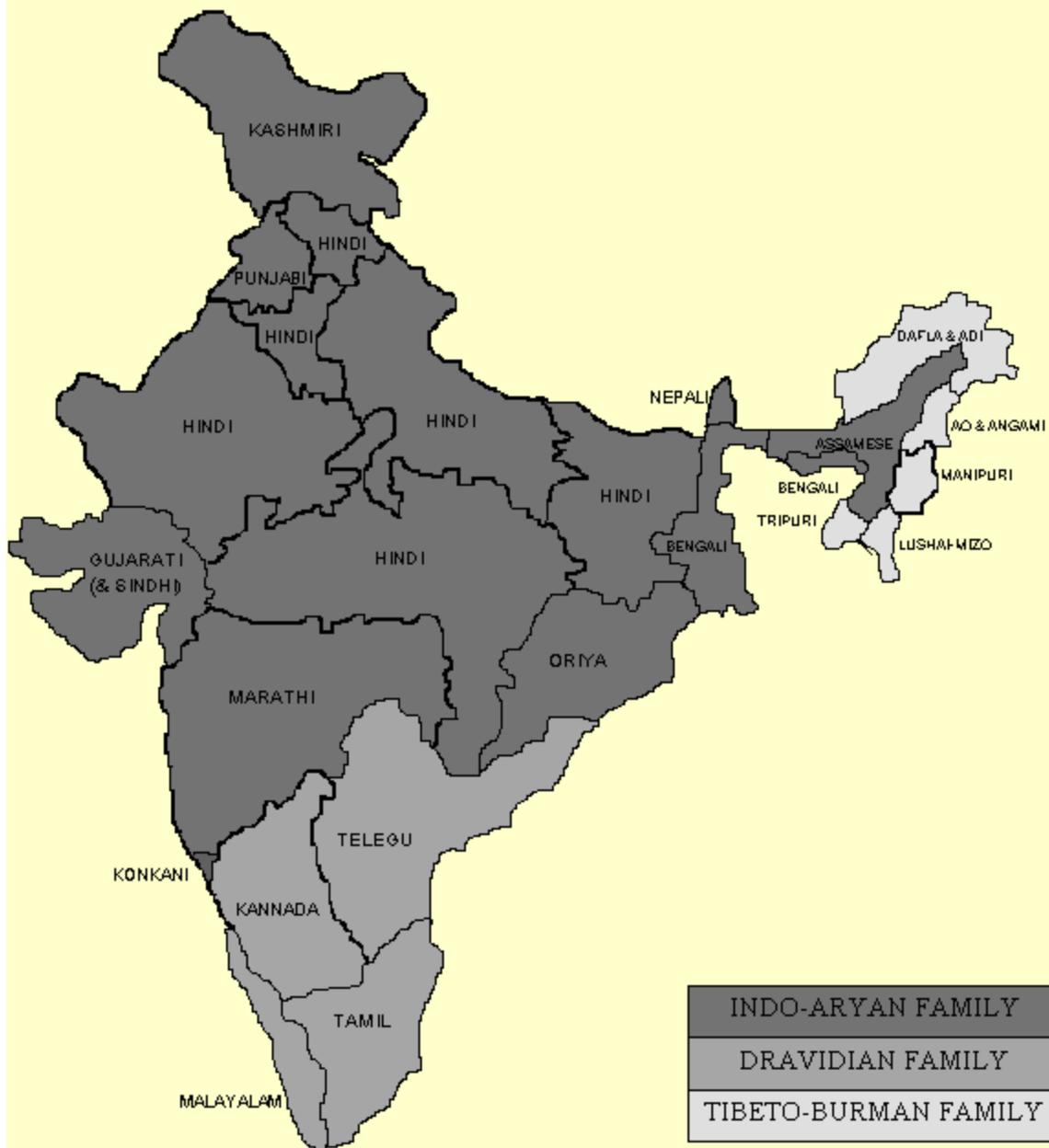
Urdu is the state language of Jammu and Kashmir and it evolved with Hindi in the capital of India, Delhi. Urdu is the language adopted by the majority of the Muslims in India. Urdu is written in the Persio-Arabic script and contains many words from the Persian language.

MAPS

MAP ONE
INDIA AND ITS STATES



MAP TWO
MAJORITY LANGUAGES OF INDIAN STATES



Shortly after gaining independence, the Indian government created states based on linguistic boundaries. Each state has a majority language, which takes precedence over the many others existing in the region. The official language is not always the majority language of the state; for example, many of the northeastern states use English for this purpose. Others, such as Gujarat, use Hindi as their official language. Map above shows the majority languages of each state shaded according to the

language family to which they belong. It is important to remember that this map very much simplifies the distribution of languages in India; nonetheless, these languages play the biggest role in language policy in India. One major language, Urdu, does not appear on the map. Though it is spoken by more than 35 million people, it does not constitute a majority in any state. Urdu actually presents a special situation because it is mutually intelligible with Hindi. The two are basically literary variants of the same spoken language. Urdu has a more Persianized vocabulary and uses the Arabic script, while Hindi has a more Sankritized vocabulary and is written in Deva Nagari script.

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